

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-05

CCO-00 AID-05 XMB-02 SCCT-01 IO-10 PC-01 FEA-01 INT-05

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R 232122Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8850

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS: ELAB PFOR ECON VE

SUBJ: CERRO BOLIVAR IRON MINERS IGNORE CVG DEADLINE, REMAIN
ON STRIKE

REF: CARACAS 5368

1. THE ORINOCO MINING COMPANY'S CERRO BOLIVAR IRON MINERS HAVE
IGNORED THE CORPORACION VENEZOLANA DE GUAYANA (CBG) ULTIMATUM TO
RETURN TO WORK BY 7:00AM MAY 23 OR FACE LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT. THE
MINE REMAINS CLOSED, THE WORKERS REMAIN UNITED, AND COMPANY SOURCES
REPORT THAT THE STRIKERS ARE THREATENING TO KILL ANYONE WHO ATTEMPTS
TO RESUME PRODUCTION AT THE MINE WITHOUT WORKER PERMISSION.
MEANWHILE THE GOV CONTINUES TO REINFORCE BOTH ARMY AND NATIONAL
GUARD GARRISONS IN THE AREA. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS
THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS, GOV POLICE OFFICIALS AND ADECO
TRADE UNION OFFICIALS HAVE TAKEN A VERY HARD LINE AS TO THE
STRIKE.

2. THE CVG U TIMATUM PROVED EFFECTIVE IN OTHER AREAS OF THE IRON
MINING OPRATION AS THE WORK FORCE AT THE IRON MINES COMPANY
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REACHED NORMAL LEVELS THE MORNING OF MAY 23. ALL BUT 200 OF
THE 1300 WORKERS EMPLOYED ON THE ORINOCO MINING COMPANY'S

RAILROAD AND PORT FACILITIES AT PUERTO ORDAZ RETURNED TO THE JOB.

3. THE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL MADE BY FETROMETAL(REFTTEL) WAS
FORMALLY REJECTED BY BOTH SIDES.

4. CTMMENT: THE BALL IS CLEARLY BACK IN THE GOV COURT. PRESSURE
ON PRESIDENT PEREZ TO TAKE A PERSONAL HAND IN THE DISPUTE
MUST BE RISING WITHIN THE GOV BUT SO ARE THE POLITICAL RISKS
ATTENDING SUCH ACTION. UNTIL THE ISSUES RAISED BY THIS STRIKE
ARE RESOLVED, THE OUTLOOK FOR LABOR PEACE IN THE POST-NATION-
ALIZATION OIL INDUSTRY IS DOUBTFUL.
SHLAUDEMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, LABOR STRIKES, IRONWORKERS, MINING INDUSTRY, LABOR OBJECTIVES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CARACA05411
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750183-0523
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750520/aaaaarnp.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CARACAS 5368
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CERRO BOLIVAR IRON MINERS IGNORE CVG DEADLINE, REMAIN ON STRIKE
TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, ECON, VE, CERRO BOLIVAR, CORPORACION VENEZOLIANA DE GUAYANA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006